

REMARKS

Claims 1-3,6, 15, 22-27,33, 37-39, 42-43, and 45-55 remain pending after amendment.

Claim Amendments

By this amendment, claims 4-5, 7-14, 16-21, 28-32, 34-36, 40-41, and 44 are cancelled. Claims 23, 33, 37, 46, 47, 49, 51 and 52 are amended. New claims 53-55 are added which correspond to claims 24-26. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter of claims 9, 11, 23, 27, 35, 38 and 39. By this amendment, allowed claim 9 is cancelled in favor of allowed claim 27. The limitations of allowed claim 11 are incorporated into claim 33. Allowed claim 23 remains pending. Allowed claim 27 remains pending. The limitations of allowed claim 35 are incorporated into claim 33. Allowed claims 38 and 39 remain pending. Claim 46 is amended to be directed to a method for treatment or prophylaxis of inflammatory bowel disease comprising contacting the disease mucosa of the gastrointestinal tract with a therapeutic amount of a polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of xanthan gum and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (HPMC) as the sole therapeutic agent, wherein the therapeutic agent is rectally administered in the form of a

rectally administrable pharmaceutical composition which is a liquid enema. Claim 46 as amended corresponds to claim 22, with the exception that claim 46 is directed to treatment by means of rectal administration. In view of the above, all claims are now believed to be allowable.

Rejection under 35 USC 102(b) over Slagel

Claims 8, 10, 13, 28-30, 32, 33, 36, 40, and 41 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Slagel WO 96/03115. This rejection respectfully is traversed.

In response, rejected claims 8, 10, 13, 28-30, 32, 36, 40 and 41 are cancelled, leaving claim 33 remaining under rejection. With respect to claim 33, claim 33 is amended to include the limitations of allowed claim 11. As a result, the rejection is believed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC 103(a) over Slagel

Claims 8, 10, 12-14, 28-30, 32, 33, 36, 37, 40, and 41 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slagel WO 96/03115. This rejection respectfully is traversed.

As noted above, claims 8, 10, 12-14, 28-30, 32, 36, 40 and 41 are cancelled. The remaining claims 33 and 37 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art.

As noted above, claim 33 is amended to include the limitations of allowed claim 11. Claim 37 depends from amended claim 33. In view of such amendments, the rejection is believed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

Given the allowability of the claims directed to rectal administration, rejoinder of all claims is now believed to be appropriate.

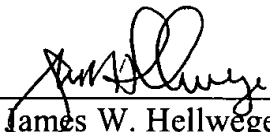
The application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and an early indication of same is earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact James W. Hellwege (Reg. No. 28,808) at (703) 205-8000 to discuss such matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Very truly yours,

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